GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5263
ANSWERED ON:28.08.2001
REHABILITATION PLAN FOR WIDOWS
DAGGUBATI RAMANAIDU

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal has sent any rehabilitation plan for widows who migrated to Varindavan;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have taken any action thereon;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a),(b)&(c) A Statement is annexed.

(d) Question does not arise.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PART (a),(b)&(c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5263 FOR 28.8.2001 REGARDING REHABILITATION PLAN FOR WIDOWS BY SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI

(a),(b)&(c): The Government of West Bengal had suggested the following:
(i)provision of Old Age Pension Scheme to those widows of Vrindavan who do not wish to return to West Bengal;
(ii)setting up of Old Age Homes; and
(iii)setting up of a Trust with the representatives from the Central Government, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Government of West Bengal and local NGOs as Members and District Magistrate, Mathura as Chairman for looking after the welfare of marginalised women from West Bengal living in Vrindavan. They also informed that they would take up awareness generation in source districts of West Bengal.

Regarding the matter of pension, Government of Uttar Pradesh has informed that they are giving old age pension of Rs.125/- p.m to widows in Vrindavan area, including Bengali women.

In the matter of Old Age Homes, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh has taken on hire two buildings with a capacity to accommodate 250 widows each in Vrindavan. Certain Voluntary organisations are also running Old Age Homes for the marginalised women of Vrindavan. With regard to the suggestion made by Government of West Bengal to float a Trust, the Government had sent this suggestion to Government of Uttar Pradesh for comments/advice.

As for awareness generation, the Central Social Welfare Board(CSWB) is implementing Awareness Generation Programme through the West Bengal State Social Welfare Advisory Board in 8 districts of West Bengal from where the widows have been migrating to Uttar Pradesh. Under this Programme, 102 Awareness Generation Camps have been sanctioned in the said 8 districts.